(b) This Scheme envisages to provide grants/subsidies to registered Voluntary Organisations, Institutions and Individuals who are engaged in the area of the promotion and preservation of Tribal art and crafts. Its main objectives are given below:—

(i) to provide the tribal with opportunities to conduct their cultural activities including the "Utsavas" (festivals and festivities) in their environment and to collect and preserve their art and craft in their millieu;

(ii) to promote and support documentation research and survey;

(iii) to assist the educational authorities of the State Governments concerned in identifying projects which will help to integrate the educational system particularly the curricula; and

(iv) to disseminate the awareness of the richness of tribal/rural culture, particularly among the urban educated people.

The Scheme had been circulated among States/UTs for inviting applications from eligible organisations, institutions etc. An Expert Advisory Committee has also been set up in the Department of Culture to advise the Government on the implementation of the Scheme for providing financial assistance. The Scheme was, however deferred from implementation during the last financial year as an economy measure under drought conditions. During the current year, the applications have again been invited from eligible organisations/individuals etc. for consideration of grant of financial assistance under this scheme.

A provision of Rs. 45.00 lakh for this scheme has been made for the year 1988-89.

Setting up of Tourism Finance Corporation

945. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Committee on Tourism has recommended the setting up of Tourism Finance Corporation, if so, whether Government are considering developmental treatment for tourism industry;

(b) whether the said Committee has suggested package appraisal of the industry and suggested urgent restructuring of organisational aspect of the tourism industry, if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) what are the salient features of the recommendations of the Committee and whether it has suggested privatisation of Indian Airlines to develop tourism industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. The National Committee on Tourism has recommended the setting up of Tourism Finance Corporation. However the decision on the recommendation has yet to be taken.

(b) and (c) The National Committee on Tourism has recommended, *inter-alia* a package of financial incentives for tourism-related activities to motivate higher investment in the tourism sector; reorganisation of the Department of Tourism, India Tourism Development Corporation and the Training Institutes under the Department of Tourism; and the strategy for rapid augmentation of air and ground transportation capacity including partial privatisation of Indian Airlines.

A final view on these recommendations is yet to be taken.